

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 18-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11 and 18-21 are amended, and claims 13 and 14 are canceled. Support for the amended features can be found in Applicant's paragraph [0032], for example.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiners Mooneyham and Weiss to Applicant's representative during the April 25, 2006 personal interview. The personal interview is summarized below and thus constitutes Applicant's record of the interview.

Claims 1-14 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over DeLorme et al. (DeLorme), U.S. Patent No. 5,948,040. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

DeLorme fails to disclose a travel information providing center with a memory that stores information input by a registered member and purchase records of the registered member; and a controller coupled to the memory and the interface, and that confirms the registered member based on the received member ID and prepares travel information based on the information input by the registered member and purchase records of the registered member that is stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID upon confirmation that the member is registered, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 18, 19 and 21.

DeLorme discloses a system (TRIPS) that allows retail consumers to input individual profiles, preferences or personal travel planning operational parameters (col. 61, lines 10-16). Individual user profiles save key strokes and repetitive entry of routine information (col. 61, lines 21-26). In other words, a retail consumer can set individual profiles based on information input by the retail consumer. As discussed during the personal interview, DeLorme fails to provide any disclosure with regard to also using purchase records of retail consumers (registered members) in order to set an individual profile. DeLorme thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 18, 19 and 21.

DeLorme also fails to disclose a travel information providing center with a controller that provides information on locations of information providing terminals which are installed adjacent to a route and which are stored in the memory, as recited in claim 11 and as similarly recited in claim 20.

DeLorme provides an explanation as to various information providing terminals that can be used (col. 14, line 43 - col. 15, line 32). However, DeLorme fails to provide any disclosure with regard to storing information on the locations of the various information providing terminals or providing information on locations of information providing terminals. Accordingly, DeLorme fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 11 and 20.

As discussed during the personal interview, page 6 of the Office Action asserts that the noted features recited in claim 11 are non-functional descriptive data. This is not correct because nowhere in MPEP 2106 IV.B.1(a), (b) or the Interim Guidelines is it suggested that the noted features recited in claim 11 are non-functional descriptive data. In fact, the Interim Guidelines assert that the noted features recited in claim 11 should be considered and addressed.

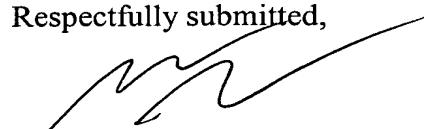
Page 9 of the Office Action identifies col. 6, lines 8-46, and col. 14, line 66 to col. 16, line 59, as disclosing the second providing step recited in claim 20 (which is similarly recited in apparatus claim 11). However, the sections cited in the Office Action fail to provide any disclosure with regard to providing information on the locations of information providing terminals which are installed adjacent to the route, as recited in claims 11 and 20.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte  
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 27, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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